THE MINISTER OF TEXTILE (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Production of raw jute.

(lakh bales of 180 kgs. each)

| 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 |
|---|---|---|
| 73.5 | 82.7 | 79.5 |

(b) Raw jute procured by Jute Corporation of India. (in terms of 000 bales of 180 kg. each)

| 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 |
|---|---|---|
| 7.1 | Negligible | Nil |

(c) Procurement for Jute is done only if prices fall below, Minimum Support Price (MSP), for which adequate finances are provided by the Government, as the need may be.

**Atrocities on Dalit Women**

1691. SHRI RAJUBHAI A PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS

be pleased to state:

(a) whether a dalit women was subjected to atrocities by youth and humiliated in village Balarpur, district Bhind (MP) on May 14, 1996, as reported in the Indian Express on May 22, 1996;

(b) if so, whether this was not an isolated case of humiliation and atrocities on the harijans and dalits in villages of States like M.P., U.P., Bihar and Rajasthan with massive tribal population, if so, the number and details of indicates of such atrocities on dalit in each of these States, during 1994, 1995 and 1996 so far; and

(c) the effective steps have been and are being taken to prevent such atrocities and to ensure peaceful and respectable life to the depressed classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHIR MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Talks with Ultras**

1692. SHRI RAM NATH KOV1ND: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are prepared for talks with ultras of country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any initiatives have been taken in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (d) The Government of India believes in solution of problems through talks and negotiations to bring about peace, stability and development. The Government of India is prepared for talks with any group which is willing to work within the framework of the Constitution of India and abjure violence. The Government of India categorically rejects violence as a means of achieving any objective.

No talks have been initiated with the ultras of the North-Eastern region, as they have not, as of now, indicated their willingness for talks within he above parameters and are continuing with violence.

In Jamamu & Kashmir, it is encouraging to note that a large number of persons who were formerly involved in militancy are'now moving away from it. Some of them have also set up new groups and arc anxious to participate in the political and democratic process. Some such persons and groups like the Forum for Permanent Resolution of J. & K. Problem, Awami League, etc. have been in contact and dialogue with the Government. The discussions have, inter